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rhetoric. The last half of the book is more conventional, with chapters on word study, spelling, construction of sentences, punctuation, and paragraph writing.

R. L. LYMAN

*A new volume of essays and stories.*—In the evaluation of a collection of essays and short stories there are three important matters to consider: first, the pedagogical aids and suggestions which it provides; second, the way in which it is organized; and third, the selections which it contains. A volume which makes a contribution in any of these particulars deserves publication; one which contributes to all three is a notable addition to the field.

*Modern Essays and Stories*<sup>1</sup> contains the following helps and suggestions for teachers and pupils: introductory material concerning the essay and the short story, a brief introduction to each selection, footnotes below the pages explanatory of historical and literary allusions, and, accompanying each essay and story, suggestive questions, twenty subjects for written imitation, and directions for writing. On the whole, the pedagogical features of the book, while marked by no great originality, are creditable and will prove helpful and suggestive.

The selections in the volume are organized according to type in the traditional manner. The essays are arranged in five divisions: familiar, story, didactic, critical, and biographical or, as it appears by an oversight in the table of contents and not altogether inaptly, "biological." The stories are of four types: legendary, historical, adventure, realistic. Short divisions are also set aside for "poetic prose" and "personality in correspondence." The organization of material will be regarded by many teachers as artificial rather than natural or functional. It can hardly be regarded as a contribution to the field.

The chief merit of the volume lies in the value of the readings which it contains. Aiming, apparently, to make the book a useful guide in the teaching of composition, the editor has chosen only modern selections. To quote from the Preface:

The essays in this book, instead of telling about coffee houses or stage coaches, Scotch peasants or literary circles in London or Edinburgh, tell about such subjects as Christmas crowds, church bells, walking, dogs, the wind, children, the streets of New York, school experiences, and various modern ideals in work, in literature, and in life [p. vii].

The stories in like manner are distinctly modern. For the most part, the selections have not previously appeared in collections intended for school use. They are, in general, within the capacity and interest of high-school Juniors and Seniors. By making them available to teachers of English, the editor has rendered a distinct service.

HOWARD C. HILL

<sup>1</sup> FREDERICK HOUK LAW, *Modern Essays and Stories*. New York: Century Co., 1922. Pp. xxviii+314. \$1.25.